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Psychanalysis and the Interpretation of Dreams: E. W. SCRIPTURE.

Psychanalysis is the term applied to the line of work originated by Freud, of Vienna. Its chief object is to get at the facts of the subconscious. One of its most effective methods is the analysis of dreams. The immediate facts in the dream, the "manifest content," are derived from the immediately preceding experiences of life. The "latent content" is deduced from the "manifest content." The "latent content" of a dream always consists of a wish or fear. A child disappointed by the size of some Bantam chickens dreamed that she had large Cochin Chinas and thus satisfied her wish. A man dreams that he is bald because he has noticed his hair to be getting thin and fears that he will become bald. The "manifest content" of the dream is often symbolic of the "latent content." After a consultation with his physician in which the disagreeable experiences of his past life are discussed, a man dreams of being in a laundry watching the clothes boil in the tank. His dream satisfies the wish to see his "dirty linen" washed clean. A man in financial difficulties dreams of being caught in a terrific snow-storm. This expresses his fear of being "snowed under."

By psychanalysis the physician gets an accurate knowledge of the patient's mental make-up; this he can get in no other way. He can then proceed to correct the various defects of character such as egotism, stubbornness, viciousness, bashfulness, timidity, etc. Psychanalysis is the only radical cure for hysteria, the phobias, and psychasthenia.

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REVIEWS AND ABSTRACTS OF LITERATURE

Light and the Behavior of Organisms. S. O. MAST. New York: John Wiley and Sons. 1911. Pp. xi + 410.

" This volume is the outgrowth of an intensive and extensive study of the processes of orientation in plants and animals, especially those without eyes, *i. e.,* a study of the perplexing and interesting question as to how these organisms regulate their activities so as to bend or move toward or from the source of stimulation. But while the book deals primarily with the question of orientation, it has a broader aspect and may be considered a treatise on the behavior of organisms based on their reactions to light."

The author of this thoroughgoing discussion of the influence of light upon the activities of organisms has made his book doubly useful by prefacing his original observations by a history of the problems of reaction to light. With respect alike to the historical sketch and the original materials, the work is excellent.

During the last twenty years a large number of observers have studied reactions to light as exhibited by plants and animals. Early in the history of this work the phenomenon of orientation attracted attention and stimulated observers to the formulation of explanatory hypotheses. About these hypotheses there has accumulated an interesting, if not over-profitable, controversial literature. It is to be hoped that Mast's clear and concise review of this subject, in connection with his important observations of the orientation processes in a number of organisms of widely differing forms, may direct research to the problems whose solution must determine the fate of the hypotheses which have tended to monopolize attention.

In his bibliography the author lists about three hundred and twenty-five titles, of which almost all concern the influence of light on organisms.

By parts the contents of the volume may be described briefly in this manner: I., historical review; II., observations concerning the bending, turning, or moving of organisms with respect to a light; III., adaptation, aggregation, variability, and modifiability; IV., reactions to colors.

The book contains admirable summaries of chapters for the use of readers whose interest impels them to seek the results of the author's investigations rather than a knowledge of his methods, but even to epitomize these summaries satisfactorily would demand an inordinate amount of space. We shall, therefore, limit this notice to the quoting of a few sentences of special interest.

Concerning the evolution of responses to light, the author writes: "The most primitive responses to light are probably due to the effect of continued illumination on synthetic and growth processes in green plants. Responses of this nature we may assume to have been the basis for the origin of all others, which probably appeared somewhat in the order following:

"(1) Change in the rate of locomotion dependent upon the absolute amount of light energy received. No orientation, but probably aggregation at the optimum intensity—*Bacteria.*

"(2) Contraction of naked protoplasm due to sudden changes in the light intensity, *i. e.,* changes in the amount of light energy received, resulting in orientation in some instances—*Amœba.*

"(3) Fixed responses (avoiding reactions) caused by sudden changes of intensity, the nature of the response depending upon the structure of the organism. No orientation, but aggregation at the optimum—*Bacteria.*

"(4) Reactions similar to those under (3), but more definitely circumscribed by the structure of the body, especially the localization of tissue sensitive to light. Definite orientation and movement directly toward the optimum—*Stentor,* etc.

"(5) Reactions to a sign. The change in illumination which causes the response is of no consequence to the organism, but the illumination which would follow if it did not respond may be—*Euglena, Volvox,* etc.

"(6) Reactions to a sign. The change of intensity (shadow) which causes the response represents objects which may be beneficial or injurious, food or enemies—*Clepsine, Hydroides,* etc.

"(7) Reaction to a sign. The light condition or configuration which causes the response represents objects, not by means of shadows cast by them, but by means of the light reflected from them expressing size, form, or color—animals with image-forming eyes." (Pp. 262–263.)

Thus briefly may be listed the chief points which the author makes concerning the influence of light:

(1) Movement, and changes in the direction or rate of the same, may occur in the absence of any immediate external change, as stimulus.

(2) Sudden changes in the intensity of light, acting upon sensitive tissues, may cause reactions.

(3) Continued constant illumination may affect rate of movement or, by bringing about reversal of the sense of reaction, direction of locomotion. Time of exposure, as well as intensity of light, influences the response.

(4) Under certain conditions a sudden increase or a sudden decrease in the intensity of light may produce the same response.

(5) A certain photic condition may inhibit one form of response and cause another to appear.

(6) Increase in the general illumination of an organism may cause increased activity, and sudden decrease of illumination may cause even greater activity.

(7) An increase in photic energy may cause the same effect as a decrease of thermal energy.

(8) Certain chemicals may cause a change in the sense of reaction —negative to positive, for example.

(9) The stimulating effect of different portions of the spectrum is specific, but it is not the same for all organisms. With the energy constant, some are the more strongly stimulated by blue, others by violet or ultra-violet, others by green and yellow, and still others by red and infra-red.

(10) "Reactions to light are variable, modifiable, and in general adaptive."

The author interprets his facts as more generally in agreement with the Jennings theory of behavior than with that of Loeb.

The book represents a large amount of extremely careful work, both on the literature of the subject and with reacting organisms. It is fair in its treatment of theories, clear in its presentation of facts, and thoroughly reliable.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. ROBERT M. YERKES.

Sociology and Modern Social Problems. CHARLES A. ELLWOOD. New York: American Book Company. 1910. Pp. 331.

The purpose of this work, as the author tells us in the preface, is to serve as "an elementary text in sociology as applied to modern social